

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-33 (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) An announcement method for use in a publish-subscribe architecture, the method comprising:

compiling an index announcement message based on a plurality of thread identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of announcement threads, wherein each of the plurality of thread identifiers comprises a first and a second sub-part, and

transmitting the compiled index announcement message onto an index channel;  
wherein

for each thread identifier, the length of the first sub part is greater than the length of the corresponding second sub-part, and

compiling the index announcement thread further comprises processing the second sub parts to reduce the size of the index announcement message such that

if the second sub-part of any thread-identifier to be included within the index announcement message does not match the second sub-part of any other thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message, then including only the second sub-part and not the corresponding first sub-part of the thread identifier in the compiled index announcement message, otherwise

if the second sub-part of any thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message does match the second sub-part of any other thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message, then including both the first and second sub-part in the compiled index announcement message.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34 further comprising:

requesting the allocation of a thread identifier from an allocator; and receiving a message from the allocator containing the requested thread identifier.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the index channel corresponds to a predetermined set of thread identifiers.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34 wherein the first sub-part of a thread identifier is a network address or other network locator.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the first sub-part is a Universal Resource Locator (URL).

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 wherein the first sub-part is an email address.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 wherein the first sub-part is an Internet Protocol network address.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein a second sub-part of a thread identifier is a number.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41 wherein the number is randomly generated.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41 wherein the number is produced by applying a hash function to data defining the subject matter of the thread identifier.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 wherein for a given first sub-part, if the number generated for the second sub-part has previously been generated, then repeating the random generation.

45. (Previously Presented) A tangible storage medium containing a computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when executed on a computer system it or they cause the computer system to operate in accordance with the method of claim 34.

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Claims 46-56 (Canceled).